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Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: Oct 18, 2018

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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/DS=6A/DB=3B/
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCJ2=AD/
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SUBJ: THIS IS (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. ARGENTINA (AR)
2. (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. (U) HOSTILITIES & INSURGENCIES - TERRORISTS MAKE ATTEMTPT ON LTG VIDELA
4. N/A
5. 770218
6. 770218
7. 770218, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
8. (b)(3):10 USC 424
9.
10. (b)(3):10 USC 424
11. NO
12. (b)(3):10 USC 424

FEB 22 12 45 PM '77

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13. (b)(3) 10 USC 424

14.

15. DIRC: NO, ~~NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT~~

16. 1. SUMMARY. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ AT APPROXIMATELY 0830 HOURS 18 FEB 77, AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON THE LIFE OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT, LTG RAFAEL VIDELA, A FEW MINUTES EARLIER, THE GENERAL ALONG WITH MAJOR GENERAL AZPITARTE, V CORPS COMMANDER, AND INTERIOR MINISTER, BG HARGUINDEGUY, HAD BOARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, F-28 NAMED THE PATAGONIA, AT AEROPARQUE JORGE NEWBERRY IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES TO FLY TO BAHIA BLANCA. THE AIRPLANE WAS AT AN ALTITUDE OF 25 METERS WHEN A 25 KILO TROTYL BOMB WAS DETONATED BELOW AND TO THE SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE THE BOMB CREATED SIGNIFICANT AIR TURBULENCE, BUT THE AIRCRAFT WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS FLIGHT AND WAS DIVERTED TO THE EL PALOMAR AIR FORCE BASE (2654S-6436W) FOR INSPECTION. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT DAMAGED NOR WERE THE PASSENGERS INJURED. FOLLOWING THE INSPECTION, THE AIRCRAFT AND PASSENGERS PROCEEDED TO BAHIA BLANCA.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOURCES STATED THAT THE BOMBING AT AEROPARQUE WAS SIMILAR TO THE ONE AT TUCUMAN IN 1975 THAT DESTROYED AN ARGENTINE AIR FORCE C130 (b)(3) 10 USC 424 AND THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ATTACK WAS THE WORK OF TERRORISTS. ONE SOURCE STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE US WOULD TAKE NOTE THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO VIOLATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF GENERALS VIDELA, HARGUINDEGUY AND AZPTIARTE. COMMENT: THE 18 FEB INCIDENT REPRESENTS THE THIRD ATTEMPT ON GENERAL VIDELA'S LIFE. ONE SOURCE,

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

FELT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEAN EVEN HARDER ON TERRORISTS AND ITENSIFY THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THEM. IN A CALMER VEIN, HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE US ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FURTHER HOPED THAT THE ATTEMPT ON LTG VIDELA'S LIFE WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO THE US THAT ARGENTINA IS ENGAGED IN A "REAL WAR" WITH THE GUERRILLAS.

(b)(3) 10 USC 424

COMMENTS: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ A. THE REMOTELY TRIGGERED EXPLOSIVE WAS PLACED AT APPROX 800 ETERS FROM APPROACH END OF RUNWAY 31 (2100 METERS LONG), AND 15 METERS OF F TO THE R.H. SIDE. PRESIDENT VIDELA'S AIRCRAFT USED RUNWAY 13 AND WAS APPROX 50 METERS ABOVE THE RUNWAY WHEN IT CAME ABEAM THE BOMB'S LOCATION. THE POWERFUL EXPLOSION SENT DEBRIS ACROSS THE RUNWAY BUT WELL UNDER THE AIRCRAFT. HAD THE TAKEOFF BEEN MADE FROM RUNWAY 31, THE AIRCRAFT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED SINCE IT WOULD

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HAVE BEEN JUST BREAKING GROUND AS IT ENTERED THE PATH OF THE WEAPON'S MOST POWERFUL EFFECTS. B. THE BOMB'S PLACEMENT IN A CULVERT OR DRAIN NEAR THE GEORGRAPHIC CENTER OF THE AIRPORT UNDERSCORES AEROPARQUE'S VULNERABILITY TO SABOTAGE DESPITE INTENSE SECURITY MEASURES. BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION WITHIN A POPULATED AREA, FOOLPROFF SECURITY MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE.

C. Sec. 3.3(b) (1) LOCAL TV STRONGLY ECHOED THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF THE ATTEMPT AS NOTED IN PARA 2. THIS MSG COORD W/EMBASSY. ~~XGDS-2~~

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ANNOTES

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